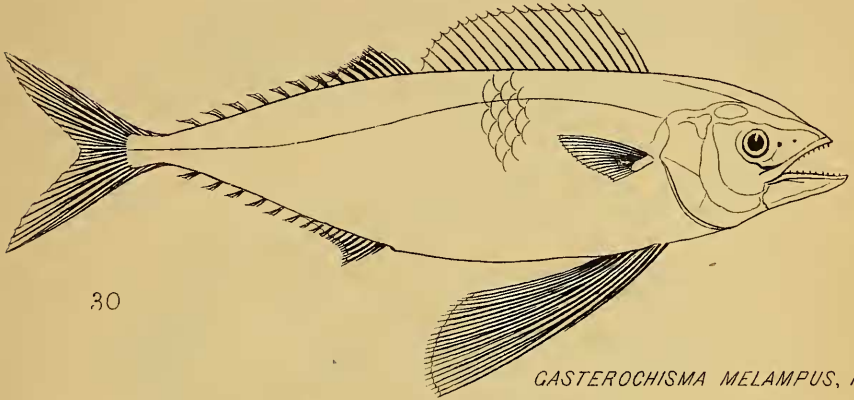


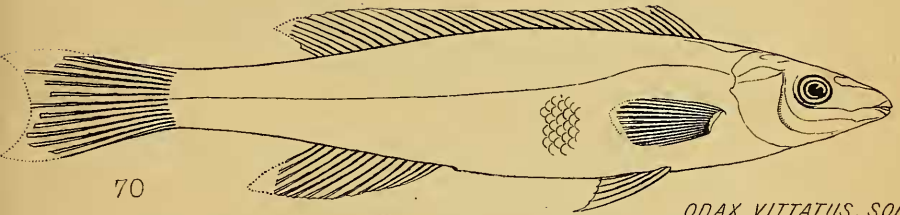
74

LOTELLA RHACINUS, FORST.



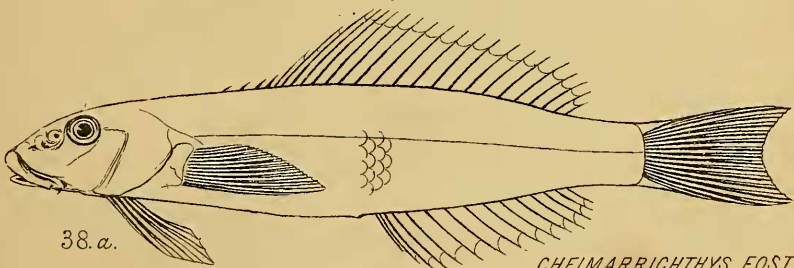
30

GASTEROCHISMA MELAMPUS, RICH.



70

ODAX VITTATUS, SOL.



38. a.

CHEIMARRICHTHYS FOSTERI, HAAST.



76. b.

MOTELLA N. ZEALANDIAE, HECTOR.

palate ; snout a quarter the length of the head ; upper jaw without a notch ; cutaneous fold half as long as the snout ; eyes divided by a narrow ridge ; gill openings as in *R. monopus* ; scales small, cycloid ; lateral line straight. Dorsal and anal rays not branched ; dorsal commences at the end of the cutaneous fold, and terminates at a distance from the caudal, which is contained two and a half times in the least depth of the tail ; middle ray less than half the length of the head ; caudal slightly rounded ; left pectoral nearly three fifths the length of the head, right much shorter ; one ventral, continuous with the anal ; vent on the blind side.

Left side brownish, blotched with black ; right side yellowish white.

This specimen agrees very well with Dr. Günther's description of *R. tapirina*, except that the eyes are on the left instead of the right side, which may be an accidental variety. The fish described by me under this name in the Trans. N.Z. Inst. (V., p. 268, 83b) evidently belongs to another species, and it can be distinguished from the present one by its small cutaneous fold, the broad interorbital space, its large and deeply sunken scales, and by its general form. It may be called *Rhombosolea retiaria*.

G. grandis, Haast. Trans. N.Z. Inst., V., p. 278.

I have examined a type specimen of this fish, sent by Dr. Haast to the Colonial Museum, and find that it agrees in every particular with *G. brevipinnis*, Günther. It is probable that the large "trout" mentioned by Dr. Hector (Cat. N.Z. Fishes, p. 124) must be also referred to this species, which is common in the rivers and lakes of the South Island, and not to *Prototroctes oxyrhynchus*, for the latter fish is found only in rapidly-running streams.

ART. XXII.—*Notice of Motella novæ zealandiæ, n.s.*

By JAMES HECTOR, M.D., F.R.S.

Pl. XVIII., 76 b.

[Read before the Wellington Philosophical Society, 16th January, 1874.]

P. 17 ; D. 60—58 ; A. 44 ; V. $\frac{2}{3}$.

BODY compressed ; snout broad, depressed, equal in length to interorbital distance, with three barbels, two above and one beneath from lower jaw. Gape one third the length of head. Length five times that of the head, and six and a half times the height. First dorsal of minute cirri of equal length ; commences at occiput. Second dorsal commences at one third the length from the snout. Post-anal portion of body one fourth longer than pre-anal. Height of dorsal uniform. Teeth in a band on both jaws, with the outer series

strongest in the upper, and the inner series strongest in the lower, and extending to only half the gape. V-shaped patch on vomer. Ventral fin with two first rays simple, second ray produced and equal in length to the head. Caudal rounded, almost continuous with the dorsal and anal. Scales minute, cycloid oblong, width being half the length. No lateral line visible. Colour, in spirit, reddish-brown, uniform, but yellowish beneath. Differs in its proportions and fin-rays from *M. pacifica*, Schleg. (Günth., IV., 367), and from *M. capensis*, Kaup, (Exp. Novara, Zool. Theil. Bd., I., 279).

Collected by Mr. Robinson, Cape Campbell, in November, 1873.

Total length seven inches.

ART. XXIII.—*On a New Genus of Rallidæ*. By Capt. F. W. HUTTON.

Pl. XX., figs. 1 and 2.

[Read before the Wellington Philosophical Society, 1st September, 1873.]

IN a paper read to this Society last year I described a new species of Rail, from the Chatham Islands, under the name of *Rallus? modestus* (Trans. N.Z. Inst., V., p. 223), at the same time expressing an opinion that it would form the type of a new genus. Since then the skeleton of the other specimen obtained by Mr. H. Travers has been prepared by the late Dr. Knox, and an inspection of this skeleton has so confirmed my previous opinion that I now no longer hesitate to place it in a new genus, of which the following is a diagnosis:—

CABALUS, gen. nov.

Bill longer than the head, moderately slender and slightly curved, compressed in the middle and slightly expanding towards the tip; nostrils placed in a membranous groove which extends beyond the middle of the bill, openings exposed, oval, near the middle of the groove. Wings very short, rounded; quills soft, the outer webs as soft as the inner, fourth and fifth the longest, first nearly as long as the second; a short compressed claw at the end of the thumb. Tail very short and soft, hidden by the coverts. Tarsi moderate, shorter than the middle toe, flattened in front, and covered with transverse scales; toes long and slender, inner nearly as long as the outer; hind toe short, very slender, and placed on the inner side of the tarsus; claws short, compressed, blunt.

The bird is incapable of flight, and the stomach of the specimen dissected by Dr. Knox contained only the legs and elytra of beetles.

The skeleton is so very remarkable that I feel compelled to make a few